

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:RCFELDER:JC

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, UK

SUBJECT:STATUS OF UK-ARGENTINE NEGOTIATIONS ON FALKLAND
ISLANDS (ISLAS MALVINAS)

1. AS IT DOES PERIODICALLY, GOA AGAIN SEEKS U.S. SUPPORT
IN ITS CONTROVERSY WITH UK OVER FALKLAND ISLANDS
(ISLAS MALVINAS). THIS TIME ISSUE AROSE IN CONTEXT OF
DISCUSSIONS PREPARATORY TO PROJECTED VISIT BY SECRETARY
TO ARGENTINA IN NEAR FUTURE. SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WHILE IN ARGENTINA THE SECRETARY WOULD
BE ABLE TO INDICATE SOME MOVEMENT IN U.S. POSITION ON
FALKLANDS.

2. OUR STANDARD RESPONSE TO GOA DEMARCHES ON THIS ISSUE
IS TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE U.S.
POLICY NOT TO TAKE SIDES IN DISPUTES BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY
NATIONS. WE DO NOT DEEM IT ADVISABLE TO ALTER THIS GENERAL
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APPROACH.

3. HOWEVER, IT OCCURS TO US THAT UK-ARGENTINE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ISLANDS MAY HAVE REACHED POINT WHICH WOULD PERMIT US, WITHOUT DAMAGING THE UK'S POSITION, TO SAY SOMETHING SOMEWHAT MORE SUBSTANTIAL AND SATISFYING TO THE ARGENTINES THAN HERETOFORE.

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4. THE EMBASSY IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO SOUND OUT FOREIGN MINISTRY RE STATUS OF FALKLAND ISLANDS TALKS. IN CONVERSATIONS ON THIS MATTER EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND PARA 3, BUT NOT REVEAL TO BRITISH LATEST ARGENTINE DEMARCHE.

5. PLEASE REPORT ASAP. INGERSOLL

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